CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for locking a motor-vehicle steering shaft against rotation comprising:

a locking bolt which has a longitudinal axis and which is axially reciprocable in a housing between a locked position and release position by a to-and-fro rotatable control element;

said locking bolt being fixable in the locked position by means of a spring-loaded securing element which is displaceably supported in said housing and which through its spring loading enters a lateral recess of said locking bolt and which, in order to move against its spring-loading out of said recess, cooperates with said control element of the locking bolt,

said control element being rotatably supported in the housing for rotation about an axis which extends parallel to, or coincides with, the longitudinal axis of the locking bolt;

said securing element comprising a pin having a longitudinal axis and mounted for axial displacement in the housing;

said longitudinal axis of said pin extending in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the locking bolt;

said pin engaging under the action of its spring load a control surface of the control element;

said control surface extending around the axis of rotation of the control element.

2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control element surrounds the locking bolt.

3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the securing pin is disposed between the control element and the steering shaft and the control surface for the securing pin is provided at that end face of the control element facing towards the steering shaft.

4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control surface for the securing pin is formed on the control element such that, when rotating the control element to axially shift the locking bolt out of the locking position into the release position, the securing pin is first moved out of the recess of the locking bolt.

5. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recess of the locking bolt comprises a deeper segment and a shallower segment to receive the securing pin in the locked position and respectively in a pre-locked position of the locking bolt.

6. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the securing pin cooperates by means of a sensing element with the control surface at the control element; and

wherein an arm of a sealing lid of an assembly aperture of the housing engages said sensing element in such a manner that when the sealing lid is removed from the assembly aperture, the sensing element is disengaged from the securing pin and the securing pin is driven by its spring loading as far as against the end of the recess of the locking bolt into a position whereat the sensing element no longer is engageable with the securing pin, said securing pin itself being inaccessible.

7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the sensing element is arranged to extend parallel to the securing pin and comprises a lateral arm which engages behind a lateral protrusion of the securing pin and is fitted with a groove running parallel to the securing pin that is arranged to receive the arm of the sealing lid.

8. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the sensing element extends parallel to the securing pin and is maintained in engagement against the securing pin by the free end of the arm of the sealing lid against the force of a spring, so that a tab of the sensing element engages behind said securing pin.

9. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the assembly aperture of the housing is located on a side of said housing which is located away from the steering shaft.

10. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the arm of the sealing lid of the assembly aperture of the housing extends parallel to the locking bolt.

11. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, including a reversible electric motor drivingly connected to the control element for rotating the control element to and fro.

12. Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the electric motor cooperates by means of a pinion or a worm with the control element, said pinion or worm engaging outer teeth of the control element.